

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

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DRAFTED BY AF/W:JKBISHOP:MB

APPROVED BY AF - DAVID D. NEWSOM

AF/W - MR. AGGREY

AFR/CWR - MR. CHIAVAROLI

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R 032302Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LOME

INFO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, PFOR, TO

SUBJECT: U.S. - TOGOLESE ECONOMIC RELATIONS

NIAMEY FOR ADO

ABIDJAN FOR REDSO

1. IN PREPARATION FOR MID-OCTOBER VISITS TO WASHINGTON SCHEDULED BY TOGOLESE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PLAN, AND TRANSPORT, AMBASSADOR MAWUSSI CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM OCTOBER 1 FOR TOUR D'HORIZON OF TOGOLESE-AMERICAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

2. MAWUSSI PRONOUNCED HIMSELF SATISFIED WITH HIS OWN EFFORTS TO OBTAIN ASSISTANCE FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF BENIN FROM PRIVATE AMERICAN FIRMS AND INSTITUTIONS. HE EXPRESSED
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SIMILAR SATISFACTION REGARDING HIS EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE

AMERICAN FIRMS TO INVEST IN TOGO. THE AMBASSADOR MENTIONED ALSO STEPS TAKEN BY THE TOGOLESE GOVERNMENT TO AVAIL ITSELF OF AMERICAN ASSISTANCE BEING PROVIDED THROUGH ENTENTE FUND FOR LIVESTOCK AND MEDIUM AND SMALL BUSINESSES.

3. TURNING TO FUTURE, MAWUSSI SAID HE IS LOOKING FOR AMERICAN INVESTORS WHO MIGHT BE WILLING TO FINANCE CONSTRUCTION OF A SUGAR REFINERY, AS WELL AS SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIAL PLANTS IN OUTLYING AREAS TO OVERCOME REGIONAL ECONOMIC DISPARITY AND COMBAT SOCIAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS RURAL

EXODUS. HE SAID HE WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK AMERICAN INVESTMENT IN THE PROPOSED CEMENT INDUSTRY, NOW EXPECTED COST DOLS. 90 MILLION WITH ACCOMPANYING INFRASTRUCTURE.

4. THE AMBASSADOR THEN FOCUSED ON OFFICIAL AMERICAN ASSISTANCE, SAYING MINISTER OF TRANSPORT WILL WANT TO DISCUSS WITH U.S. OFFICIALS POSSIBILITY OF U.S. HELP FINANCING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR CEMENT INDUSTRY, INCLUDING RAILROAD. HE SAID TOGO ALSO SEEKS ASSISTANCE WITH DEVELOPMENT OF KARA VALLEY AND IRRIGATION ALONG LITI RIVER. HE EMPHASIZED NEED FOR LONG TERM FINANCING ON CONCESSIONAL TERMS TO AVOID ACQUIRING OPPRESSIVE MEDIUM TERM DEBT BY OVER-RELIANCE ON SUPPLIER CREDIT FINANCING.

5. MR. NEWSOM REVIEWED ONGOING U.S. ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES IN TOGO, AND ASSURED MAWUSSI THAT AMERICAN OFFICIALS WILL BE PREPARED TO RECEIVE MINISTERS AND REVIEW THEIR PROPOSALS. HOWEVER, HE CAUTIONED AMBASSADOR THAT THERE IS LITTLE BASIS FOR OPTIMISM THAT U.S. WILL PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE, AND THE IBRD AND IDA ARE MORE LIKELY SOURCES FOR FUNDING OF MAJOR PROJECTS.

6. AMBASSADOR MAWUSSI EXPRESSED SOME FRUSTRATION AT WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS AID'S CHANGING ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND ASKED IF HIS GOVERNMENT COULD HAVE SOME HELP PREPARING PROPOSAL FOR A SMALL BILATERAL PROJECT WHICH WOULD CONFORM TO AID'S CURRENT CRITERIA. NEWSOM REPLIED THAT AGRICULTURE, TRAINING, AND HEALTH ARE THE THREE SECTORS EMPHASIZED IN AID LEGISLATION PROPOSED FOR FY 1974, BUT THAT PRIOR TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PASSAGE OF THE LEGISLATION IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO GIVE FIRM ASSURANCES REGARDING CRITERIA OR THE ABILITY OF AID TO UNDERTAKE BILATERAL PROGRAMS IN ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES.

7. COMMENT - WITHOUT ENCOURAGING SUCH APPROACHES IN WASHINGTON, DEPT. AND AID WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIPT ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH EMBASSY CAN OBTAIN CONCERNING PLANS OF MIVEDOR, DOGO AND HUNLEDE TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL

U.S. AID DURING FORTHCOMING VISITS. EMBASSY COMMENTS
ON THEIR PROPOSALS WOULD BE WELCOME. RUSH

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